

# **Phase I Intensive Archaeological Resources Survey for the Toolebeck-Aiken 230 kV Tie and a Portion of the Graniteville #2-Toolebeck 230 kV and Toolebeck-South Augusta 230 kV Tie and Associated Facilities**

**Aiken County, South Carolina**



December 2019



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**Aiken County, South Carolina**

December 2019

**Prepared for:**  
Pike Engineering, LLC,  
Columbia, South Carolina

on behalf of

Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.

**Prepared by:**  
Colin Partridge  
Project Archaeologist

And

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Alex' and the second is 'Sweeney'.

Alex Y. Sweeney, M.A., R.P.A.  
Principal Investigator

Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
Atlanta • Charleston • Fort Collins • Jackson • Nashville • Savannah



## Management Summary

Between September 2 and October 18, 2019, Brockington and Associates, Inc. (Brockington) conducted a Phase I archaeological resources survey of the Toolebeck-Aiken 230 kV Tie, a portion of the Graniteville #2-Toolebeck 230 kV, the Toolebeck-South Augusta 230 kV Tie, and associated facilities located in Aiken County, South Carolina. The investigation consisted of an archaeological survey of 29 kilometers (km) within an existing transmission corridor and two new right-of-way (ROW) additions. The ROW additions consisted of a four-acre tract at the southern end of the project corridor and a 660 meter (m) corridor around the north end of the Toolebeck Transmission Substation. This archaeological resources investigation was carried out for Pike Engineering, LLC, Columbia, South Carolina on behalf of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (DESC), in preparation for proposed construction of a new 230 kV transmission line, which will require a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) by the South Carolina Public Service Commission (SCPSC). These investigations follow standards and guidelines that comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) by personnel qualified under the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Standards (36 CFR Part 61) and in accordance with the standards set forth by the South Carolina *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations* (The Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists [COSCPA] 2005) and the *National Register Bulletin 24, Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning* (Parker 1985).

Archival research revealed that no previously recorded cultural resources (i.e., archaeological sites or historic resources) are located within the project corridors Area of Potential Effects (APE). Brockington conducted an archaeological survey within the APE of the project corridor. The survey included systematic visual reconnaissance and 30-meter (m) interval shovel testing. The field survey identified that most of the project corridor has been severely disturbed by soil erosion and recent development. Road crossings, housing developments, horse related activity areas, a golf course, and a shopping center are all present along the corridor within the APE. Some areas of the corridor are also situated in low-lying drainages with hydric soils. These conditions are not optimal for intact archaeological sites. Our field investigations identified one archaeological resource within the project corridor. Isolate 1 is a historic artifact scatter recommended not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No additional archaeological management considerations are warranted for this project.

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# 1.0 Introduction

Between September 2 and October 18, 2019, Brockington and Associates, Inc. (Brockington) conducted a Phase I archaeological resources survey of the Toolebeck-Aiken 230 kV Tie, a portion of the Graniteville #2-Toolebeck 230 kV, the Toolebeck-South Augusta 230 kV Tie, and associated facilities located in Aiken County, South Carolina. The investigation consisted of an archaeological survey of 29 km within an existing transmission corridor and two new right-of-way (ROW) additions. The ROW additions consisted of a four-acre tract at the southern end of the project corridor and a 660 m corridor around the north end of the Toolebeck Transmission Substation. Brockington was concurrently tasked with conducting a Literature Review and Windshield Reconnaissance of historic architectural resources within the study area (refer to Dobbs 2019). The goal of this archaeological survey was to identify whether any National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed archaeological sites may be affected by this proposed project. This investigation was carried out for Pike Engineering, LLC, Columbia, South Carolina on behalf of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (DESC), in preparation for proposed construction of three new 230 kV transmission lines, which will require a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) by the South Carolina Public Service Commission (SCPSC). These investigations follow standards and guidelines that comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) by personnel qualified under the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Standards (36 CFR Part 61) and in accordance with the standards set forth by the South Carolina *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations* (The Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists [COSCPA] 2005) and the *National Register Bulletin 24, Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning* (Parker 1985).

## 1.1 Project Scope and Effect

DESC proposes to upgrade its infrastructure along approximately 29 km of the existing transmission line corridor (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). The survey corridor passes through agricultural and wooded areas, as well as areas that have been developed in recent years. The corridor extends from an area known as Urquhart Junction, located 16.2 km southwest of the city of Aiken, to another existing transmission line junction located 14 km northeast of Aiken. The existing transmission line corridor is approximately 45 m wide; one existing transmission line is located along the eastern half of this transmission line corridor. For this current project, the proposed new transmission lines will be located along the western portion of the existing transmission line corridor adjacent to the existing line for the entire length of the corridor between Urquhart Junction and the Santee Cooper Interconnection Point. The current survey covers 15 m from the eastern and western edge of the existing transmission line corridor with two survey transects at 30-m intervals for the first 17.0 km from Urquhart Junction and a single transect 15 m from the western edge of the existing corridor for the remaining length from the Toolebeck Transmission Substation. An additional transect was also placed on the east side of the corridor for the southernmost 16 km of the corridor from Urquhart Junction to the Toolebeck Transmission Substation. Two new ROW additions will also be surveyed at Urquhart Junction and around the north side of the Toolebeck Transmission Substation. Both proposed new ROW additions are less than one km in length and were also surveyed at 30-m intervals. The current transmission line corridor was first constructed between 1954 and 1957 and has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Anticipated disturbance from the proposed project includes excavation of select locations to place new structures within the existing transmission line corridor.

Our field investigations identified that the project corridor had been severely disturbed by past agricultural activity and recent development. Our archaeological resources survey identified one archaeological resource within the project corridor, Isolate 1. Isolate 1 is a historic artifact scatter and is recommended not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Therefore, the proposed construction of the 230 kV transmission line in the project corridor will not impact any NRHP-eligible archaeological resources, and no further management is warranted.

Following this introduction, Chapter 2 provides an overview of the cultural and environmental background of the project corridor. Chapter 3 describes the methods employed during the archaeological resources survey. Chapter 4 provides the results of this survey. Conclusions and recommendations are also provided at the end of Chapter 4. Appendices following the text include the artifact catalog from Isolate 1 in Appendix A and the resumes of the project principals in Appendix B. Maps showing the approximate location of shovel tests excavated during this survey are provided in Appendix C.

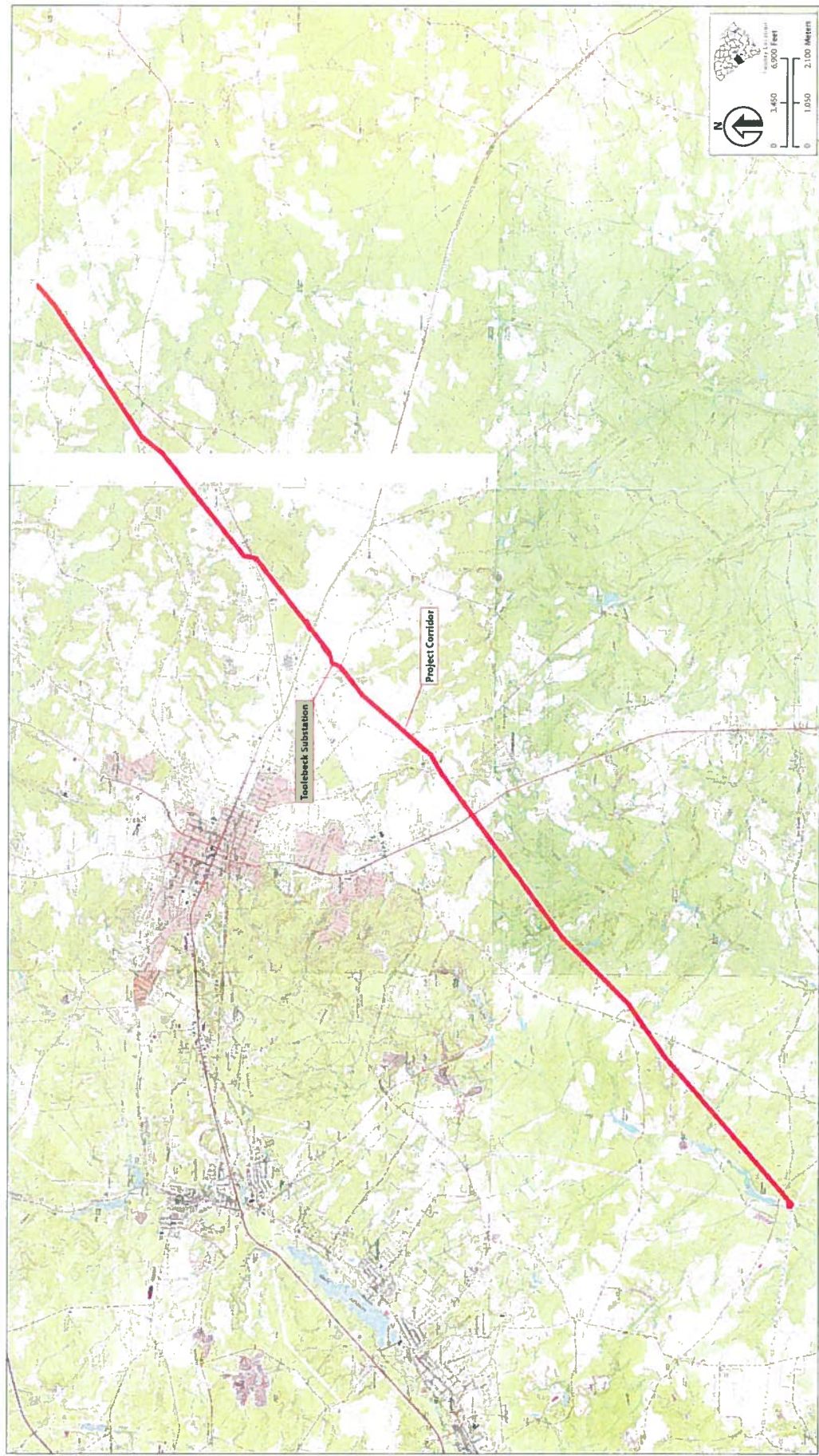


Figure 1.1 Project corridor location on the United States Geological Survey (USGS/Alken, Grantville, Oakwood, Windsor, Hollow Creek, and New Ellenton, SC topographic maps (1961, 1981, 1986, 1987)

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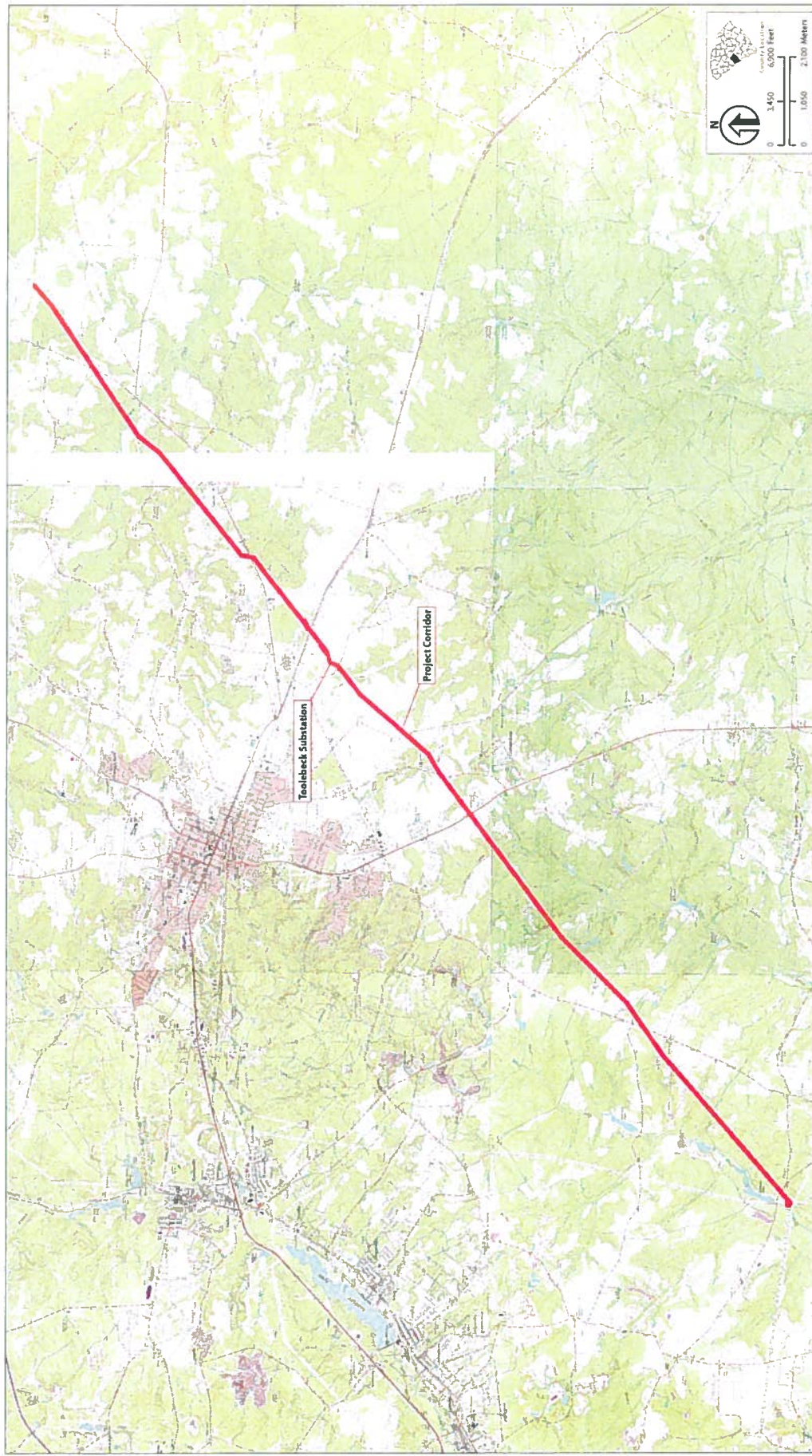


Figure 1.1 Project corridor location on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Aiken, Graniteville, Oakwood, Windsor, Hollow Creek, and New Ellenton, SC topographic maps (1981, 1980, 1981, 1961, 1981, 1981, 1989)



**Figure 1.2 Aerial view of project corridor and new ROW additions.**